

For Your Information
Weekly
FROM THE CITY MANAGER & STAFF
March 4, 2016

Dates to Remember

March 5, 2016 – Clewiston’s Annual Spring Cleaning

March 8, 2016 – Hendry-Glades Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

March 14, 2016 – Clewiston Library Advisory Board Meeting

March 14, 2016 – Planning & Zoning Board Meeting

March 16, 2016 – Special Magistrate Hearing

March 17, 2016 – Golf Course Advisory Board Meeting

March 17, 2016 – City Commission Workshop

March 18-19, 2016 – Sugar Festival-Visit www.clewistonsugarfestival.net for more information

March 21, 2016 – City Commission Meeting

Staff Reports

Community Development Director Reese reports:

- A permit has now been issued for a 4 bedroom/6 bath single family residence to be located at 204 Cypress Avenue. This will be only the second home built in the Ridgewood Estates area in more than 10 years;
- We have submitted our letter of intent to FEMA stating that Clewiston is interested in participating in the Community Rating System (CRS) so that our residents will qualify for discounted flood insurance premiums. This requires the city to cooperate with FEMA, the Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO), and the CRS verification process to ensure that our credited activities are fully earned and warranted. We anticipate ISO will visit us to review our program in depth and verify the creditable activities. We understand that approval from the FEMA Regional Office is needed for the ISO/CRS Specialist to visit the community.

Debbie McNeil – Community Improvement Division reports:

- I have responded to various citizens’ complaints including, but not all inclusive, illegal parking, lawn maintenance, signage, bees, trash management and illegal construction.
- Research and drafting of the proposed residential rental permit program is ongoing. Final product in production to present to Commission.
- We have identified accessory structures being utilized for human occupancy within our city, cases are moving through the process.
- Code enforcement fines/liens data has been consolidated into one spreadsheet with foreclosure recommendations for Mr. Schoech to review with staff. Talks with Finance have been initiated to combine our data with theirs. A full picture of satisfied code

enforcement liens and outstanding code enforcement liens will be available upon conclusion of project.

- Operation Show Your Numbers has begun and will continue throughout the City until compliance of commercial and residential structures is achieved.
- Our next scheduled Magistrate Hearing is on March 16, 2016 at 10:00 AM in the City Commission Chambers.
- 20 new code cases were generated, 4 code cases resolved, 2 referred out and 9 rental inspections completed.

Code Review of the week:

Sec. 70-49. - Prohibited in specified places, moving illegally parked vehicles; authority of officers; penalty for violation.

(a) Except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the law or the directions of a police officer or official traffic control device, **no person shall:**

(5) **Park either a truck with a chassis capacity greater than two tons, or a commercial trailer, or both, in use districts R1-A, R-1B, R-1C, R-2, R-3, RM-1 and RM-2, except on a temporary basis for loading and unloading, or in connection with the construction of a building on such property, and excepting further that such a truck or commercial trailer may be parked in such district if parked within a totally enclosed building.**

(c) A law enforcement officer or parking enforcement specialist who discovers a vehicle parked in violation of any of the provisions of this section shall:

(1) Issue a ticket as used by the city to the driver.

(2) If the vehicle is unattended, attach such ticket to the vehicle in a conspicuous place.

(d) Any person violating, permitting, suffering, allowing or assisting anyone to violate any of the provisions of this section shall be subject to a fine in the amount specified in this subsection per notice or violation, provided the fine is paid within ten days of issuance of the notice of violation.

(1) For violation of subsection (a)(1)n of this section (regarding parking spaces for disabled or handicapped persons), the fine shall be \$250.00.

(2) For violation of subsection (a)(1)r of this section, regarding stopping, standing or parking in a fire lane, or subsection (a)(2)b of this section, regarding stopping, standing or parking within 15 feet of a fire hydrant, the fine shall be \$100.00.

(3) For all other violations, the fine shall be \$75.00.

Any person who fails to pay the amount specified on a ticket issued for any such infraction within the time allowed on the ticket will be subject to the court procedure provided for in F.S. § 316.1967.

(Code 1982, § 19-19; Code 1999, § 70-64; Ord. No. 85-10, § 1, 12-2-1985; Ord. No. 98-04, pt. 1, 7-20-1998; Ord. No. 2007-08, pt. 1, 7-16-2007)

State Law reference— Parking regulations, F.S. § 316.1945.

If you have any questions you may contact the Community Improvement Division at 141 Central Avenue, Clewiston Utilities Building. The public is encouraged to report code violations by contacting us at the above address or 983-1454.

Join us in our dedication to fight the blight in America's Sweetest Town.

Library Director Barrett reports:

- **For information regarding any of our programs, please call the library at (863) 983-1493 and remember to visit www.hendrylibraries.org. Your library truly has a lot to offer.**

Golf Course Director Robbie Rush Reports:

- Get all Clewiston Golf Course news. Visit our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov and sign up under Constant Contact. You will automatically be put on the golf course e-mail.
- Get your grips re-done. Contact the golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- Golf lessons are available, contact Robbie Rush at 863-983-1448.
- The greens were fertilized, top-dressed, sprayed for weeds and insecticide was put on them this week.
- Tees were treated for mole crickets.
- Traps were edged, along with the tree rings sprayed.
- Thanks to Bill Sikes for trimming all the myrtle bushes on property.
- We continue to trim trees on the golf course.
- CLGA Susan G. Komen Golf Tournament raised \$9000.00 for cancer research. The tournament was Saturday February 27, 2016. 108 players participated.
- Ladies Golf Clinic (Full Swing) is March 5, 2016. Sign-up in the golf shop.
- Clewiston Golf Course Couples Championship is Sunday, March 6, 2016. The tournament is a 9-Hole Modified Scramble. The sign-up sheet is in the golf shop.
- 29th Annual Campbell and Frances Nall Scholarship Rotary Golf Tournament is Saturday, March 12, 2016. Sign-up is in the golf shop.
- Okeechobee Landings has scheduled another tournament for Monday, March 14, 2016.
- Golf Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2016 at City Hall. The meeting begins at 11am.
- Clewiston First Tee Junior Golf Clinic is March 19, 2016 from 4pm-5pm. Integrity is the life skill. For more information contact the golf shop at 863-983-1448.
- Pace of Play is becoming an issue. Please be considerate of other groups behind you, by letting faster players go through.
- Season is in full swing - we suggest calling ahead for tee times.

Recreation Director Lance Ramer reports:

- Baseball and Softball teams have begun to practice all over town getting ready for this year's season. Please be aware of the kids...Please SHARE!

- Infield clay has begun to be spread and packed this week on the small quad.
- Assembly of the new bleachers for the small quad should be completed today. The chain link backs will be installed next week.
- All electrical and data boxes for the scoreboards at Sugarland Sports Complex have been checked and repaired/replaced. All scoreboards will be checked next week.
- Parts have arrived for the Stalls Field Scoreboard and they will be put in as soon as possible.
- Replacement of the dugouts on field #5 and all the score tables on the small quad at Sugarland Sports Complex have begun. Thank You to David's Carpentry and Concrete for donating the labor!
- The irrigation systems have been repaired at the Civic Park.
- "NEW CLASS" KIDZ ZUMBA – Thursday's from 4-5pm at the Beardsley Room.
- Ant bait was placed throughout the City Commons Areas in anticipation for the Sugar Festival.
- Recreation Staff attended a SCORP (State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) training seminar in Sunrise Thursday.
- CHS Girls Softball next home games will be Tuesday, Mar. 8th against LaBelle at 5:00pm (JV) and 7:00pm (Varsity) GO TIGERS!
- CHS Boys Baseball next home game will be Tuesday, Mar. 8th against LaBelle at 4:40 pm (JV) and 7:00pm (Varsity). Come out and support the TIGERS!
- Weekly highlights for Clewiston Recreation
 - Mar. 3rd thru 6th - Seminole Tribe of Florida Conference JBA
 - Mar. 5th – City Spring Clean 10-Noon Youth Center
 - Mar. 5th – Relay for Live Survivor Dinner 5-9pm Youth Center
 - Mar. 5th – Baby Shower 11am-6pm Sugarland Park Pavilion
 - Mar. 6th – Birthday Party 11am-6:30pm STP Pavilion #1
 - Mar. 6th – Birthday Party 11am-5pm Trinidad Park
- If you are interested in participating in an adult co-ed dodge-ball league, co-ed softball league, AAU Track and Field, please contact Andre at 983-1492.
- Please visit www.clewistonrecreation.com to check us out and get information regarding all your recreational needs.

Public Works Director Sean Scheffler reports:

- Mosquito Control: One of the traps caught enough mosquitoes to trigger a treatment. The Okeechobee trap rendered 350 in a 12 hour period. The other two have increased to around 75 each, but not enough to trigger a treatment. Larvicide was applied to standing water on Hoover Dike Road after an inspection discovered active larva. A ground ULV treatment has been ordered for Tuesday night. The Zika virus or the *Aedes* mosquito still has not shown up in our community. Let me remind you that the *Aedes* mosquito is a container breeding mosquito with a short range of activity. So this mosquito does not normally show up in CO2 traps. So check your property for anything that may hold even the smallest amount of water and empty it.
- Street Maintenance: (1) Staff has been busy working with solid waste crews picking up trash as we are still experiencing some equipment difficulties. (2) Staff mowed large open areas and ROWs.

- Civic Park Rebuild: (1) The monuments and flagpoles were installed this week. (2) The Contractor has been put on notice of the Sugar Festival on March 19 and the park will be ready. (3) The new sod has been rolled.
- Sidewalk Project: The contractor has started on the Del Rio sidewalk.
- Building Maintenance: The City Hall got a new coat of paint. We have some moisture issues with the Utility Building that will need to be corrected before we paint that building. The Community Development Building is up next.
- Pasadena Drainage & Paving Project: This project is moving along. A little behind schedule on the underground, but very wet conditions have been a real issue.
- Spring Cleaning: Join us as we clean up Clewiston and enjoy time with local residents this Saturday between 10:00a and 12:00p under the Chickee by the Youth Center. Have lunch and win door prizes donated by local business. Call 983-1471 for more information.

Police Chief Gutshall reports:

- Officers responded to a general street brawl on Ponce De Leon late Monday Night. Several young females were gathered up pushing and shoving while three others were on the ground swinging fists, pulling hair and punching each other. It was determined that the group had been broken up and sent away by bystanders earlier, but had decided to return and finish their business. Three of the girls were charged with Battery and Affray. All three were transferred to the Hendry County Jail.
- Patrol Officers responded to a report of counterfeit bills at a business on Sugarland Highway. Although the suspect had fled, officers were able to obtain a description of the female suspect and immediately set out to look in nearby businesses. The suspect was found just down the street in possession of more counterfeit \$100 bills. The suspect was arrested and is being held in the Hendry County Jail.
- Night Shift Patrol has remained vigilant. They were able to make a couple more arrests for drug possession at the Royal Executive Inn.
- Taser Training is complete and all of our officers are up to date on the latest methods and legal updates. Last week all officers were requalified on firearms.
- Citizens complained of a careless driver coming into town on Hwy 27. Officers were able to intercept the vehicle (semi-tractor trailer). The officers were able to determine that the driver was under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The suspect was arrested and transported to the Hendry County Jail.
- Our Communications 911 audit was held this past week. We are in full compliance. No comments noted.
- Four officers sat for the Sergeants Exam last Tuesday. The same officers will attend an oral interview board this week coming. Those eligible for the promotion are Ilia Movalli, Nicholas Williams, Todd Harris and Buffie McLeod. Wish them well when you see them.
- Following is a brief synopsis of the week's activity:

1116	Commercial / Residential Security Checks
616	Complaints Investigated
20	Arrests Made
24	Traffic Citations Issued
56	Merchant Escorts provided

23	Alarms Responded To
6	City Ordinance Violations
6	Traffic Accidents Investigated

Utilities Director Williams reports:

- Please remember to register with CodeRed (Reverse 911). This system allows us to contact you in case of an emergency or with other informational announcements. You may register by clicking on the CodeRed link at the bottom or the City's website page www.clewiston-fl.gov. You may update your information at any time through the same link.
- If you are considering replacing your air conditioner or insulation, remember the City offers a rebate program for those items. Most local contractors participate in the program and can give you information. You can also visit our website at www.clewiston-fl.gov or call our office.
- DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR YOUR METER BASED SURGE PROTECTION! Visit our office today.
- ONLINE BILL PAY IS AVAILABLE on our web site at www.clewiston-fl.gov or www.municipalonlinepayments.com/clewistonfl.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF UTILITY PAYMENT SCAMS: Scam artists are calling Utility customers posing as employees of Clewiston Utilities and threatening disconnection of services if payment is not made immediately. Please be aware:

- 1) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER request you to purchase money cards or gift cards to pay your account over the phone.
- 2) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER contact our customers on the weekend and threaten disconnection of services.
- 3) Clewiston Utilities will NEVER speak to our customers in a threatening tone.

If you feel you have been a victim of this scam please contact Clewiston Utilities to verify the call or the Clewiston Police Department and file a report.